

# The Signal An Akron Community Foundation Magazine

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#### **We Strive For Accuracy**

If you discover an error in this publication, please contact thoyes@akroncf.org or 330-436-5620

#### **Address Changes**

dherman@akroncf.org

#### **On The Cover**

The Indian Signal Tree Photo: John Reeves



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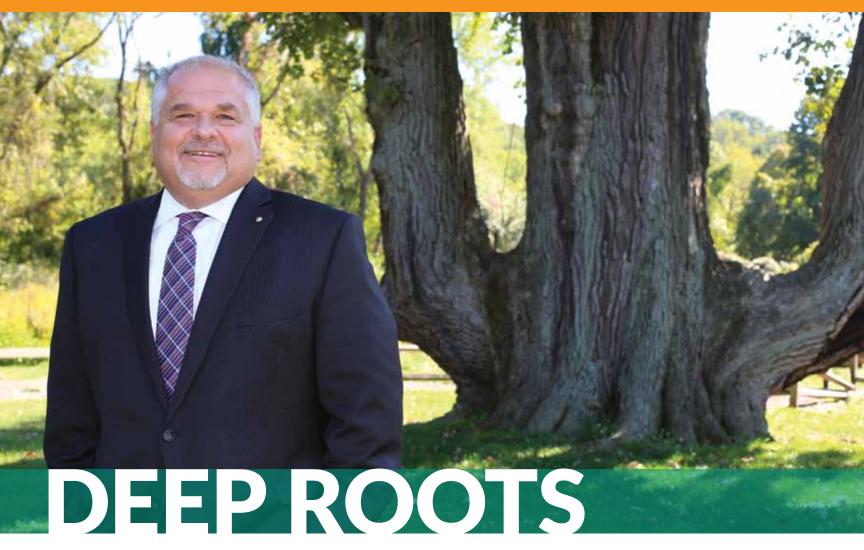
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By John T. Petures Jr.

I'm a little embarrassed. It took me more than eight years to make the trek to Cascade Valley Metro Park to see the Signal Tree: yes, the one estimated to be over 300 years old that once served as a guidepost for Native Americans traveling the Cuyahoga River. It's also been Akron Community Foundation's logo for many years, and it symbolizes the strength of your community foundation's deep and lasting roots in Greater Akron and the permanent philanthropy represented by our more than 540 fundholders.

This symbol recently took on even greater significance for me and the organization when the Summit Metro Parks Foundation and its board established a \$3.5 million fund with Akron Community Foundation, the second-largest agency endowment fund in our 61-year history. We congratulate and applaud Summit Metro Parks for its vision in joining our family of funds. But it should come as no surprise to any of us, as Akron Community Foundation has a long history of connecting charitable people and organizations for the permanent good of our community here in Summit County.

During my leadership at the community foundation, we've seen the number of fundholders nearly double. We've also achieved record levels of gifts and grants, including awarding nearly \$19 million in grants in the last two years alone. In fact, a list in the September 2016 issue of Crain's Cleveland Business named Akron Community Foundation the fourth-largest grant-making foundation in Northeast Ohio, trailing only the Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation and KeyBank Foundation. Greater Akron is a wonderfully generous place, and your community foundation stands ready to assist you, your family or your business in fulfilling your own philanthropic dreams for making our community stronger.

Like the Signal Tree, we're proud to be a modern-day guidepost for current and future generations, linking people in this place to the leaders and organizations that are working so hard to meet the needs of those less fortunate, today and forever. I'd encourage you to reach out to our development and donor engagement staff to explore how easy and convenient it is to establish a fund and make a lasting impact on the quality of life where we live, work and raise our families. §

# BACK& FORTH

Congratulations on a wonderful (Polsky Humanitarian Award) event last evening! You and the team at Akron Community Foundation are to be commended for an inspiring and well-organized celebration. It was especially meaningful to the entire staff of The Oak Clinic for Multiple Sclerosis, and on behalf of all of them, I thank you!

## Suzanne Arnold Oak Clinic for Multiple Sclerosis

Vanita and I would like to thank you for arranging a wonderful (Polsky Humanitarian Award) event. Everyone seemed to think that everything went like clockwork and that people enjoyed the event more than they had expected. That's a testament to you and your staff as well as Dave Lieberth's presentation. I heard nothing but positive comments for every facet of the evening.

#### Jim Oelschlager 49th Polsky Award recipient



I just wanted to let you know that I invited members of the Venarge Fund who could make it to visit our Free Book Fair at Schumacher CLC. Cheryl, Tom and Marcy were all able to stop by, and I think really enjoyed seeing our work and their support in action. They were very kind and clearly felt very passionately about bringing these sorts of opportunities to Akron's children.

During their visit, a rather prodigal third-grade boy discussed how he expected the copy of Harry Potter he had just picked up would be his favorite book as soon as he read it. Then, the next classroom arrived having apparently been told they would receive only one book. When I corrected them and told them they could take five, there was rather a lot of cheering.

So overall, a very pleasant visit, and I'd like to thank you and the team at Akron Community Foundation once again for introducing the Venarge family to our program.

#### Keith Seher Bright Star Books

I am very honored to receive the Richard Chenoweth Qualified Designated Scholarship. Thank you for helping me continue my education and reach my goals. I plan to major in communications at Kent State University in the fall. I want to use my major to help others and combine my talents and passion to reach that goal. This scholarship means a lot to me, and I thank you again!

## Jacqueline Cunningham Akron, OH

**Talk To Us!** Do you have a note of appreciation you'd like to share? Perhaps a photo of something connected to our grantees' or fundholders' good work in the community? Send it to Tina Boyes, VP of Marketing & Communications, Akron Community Foundation, 345 W. Cedar St., Akron, OH 44307 or **tboyes@akroncf.org**.

#### **ConxusNEO**

@summitworkforce

Thank you @AkronCF for your vision & leadership to support innovative approaches to increase access to sustainable wage careers

## Downtown Akron Partnership

@downtownakron

Thank you @AkronCF for your continued support of DAP & our mission to promote & build a vibrant, valuable downtown.



ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents	March 31, 2016 \$8,455	March 31, 2015 \$9,504
Investments (at fair value):	Ψ0,-33	Ψ2,30 <del>-1</del>
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$11.225	\$11.594
Corporate bonds	\$8,117	\$8,325
Other fixed income	\$15,730	\$14,287
U.S. equity securities	\$63,754	\$81,628
International equity securities	\$31,819	\$34,866
Alternative investments	\$29,149	\$17,182
Real estate held for investment	\$552	\$552
Total investments	\$160,346	\$168,434
Trust accounts:		
Third party trusts	\$9,985	\$11,095
Pooled life income fund receivable	\$150	\$151
Total trust accounts	<b>\$10,135</b>	<b>\$11,246</b>
Contributions receivable — net	\$268	<b>\$516</b>
Note receivable	<b>\$1,057</b>	<b>\$</b> -
Accrued investment income	<b>\$166</b>	\$230
Prepaid expenses	\$68	\$80
Land and land improvements	\$344	\$344
Building and equipment:		
Building and equipment	\$1,402	\$1,259
Less accumulated depreciation	\$(293)	\$(75)
Building and equipment — net	\$1,110	<b>\$1,184</b>
Cash value of life insurance	\$57	\$54
Total Assets	\$182,006	\$191,592
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$483	\$510
Grants approved for future payment	\$389	\$549
Funds held as agency endowments	\$22,344	\$23,227
Total liabilities	\$23,216	\$24,286
Net assets	\$158,790	<b>\$167,306</b>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$182,006	\$191,592



Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$182,006	<b>\$191,592</b>
REVENUES. GAINS AND SUPPORT		
Contributions received	\$10,470	\$13,647
Investment income	\$3,593	\$3,703
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of assets	\$(10,678)	\$4,851
Less amounts held for agency endowments:		
Contributions	\$(1,325)	\$(1,988)
Investment income	\$(388)	\$(398)
Net depreciation (appreciation) in fair value of assets	\$1,333	\$(613)
Total less amounts held for agency endowments	\$(380)	\$(2,999)
Net insurance proceeds due to fire	<b>\$</b> -	\$712
Total Revenues, Gains and Support	\$3,005	\$19,914
EXPENSES AND DISTRIBUTIONS	*	40.00
Grants and other distributions	\$9,695	\$9,168
Administrative expenses	\$2,385	\$2,336
Building impairment due to fire	\$- \$ <b>-</b>	\$0 \$70.4
Investment expenses	\$704	\$704
Less amounts held for agency endowments:	¢(0,(0)	¢((AA)
Grants and other distributions	\$(962) \$(225)	\$(644) \$(202)
Administrative expenses	\$(225) *(7.4)	\$(203) ¢(70)
Investment expenses	\$(76)	\$(73) <b>*</b> (020)
Total less amounts held for agency endowments	\$(1,263) \$11,521	\$(920)
Total Expenses and Distributions Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$11,521	\$11,288 \$8,626
Net assets, beginning of year	\$(8,516) \$167,306	\$158,680
		\$167.306
Net Assets, End of Year	\$158,790	\$16/,306

# Thank you for an incredible year of giving! ACF: By The NUMBERS

During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, we achieved:

54(0)+ Total Funds

\$182 million in assets

 $\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond\Diamond$ 

5.853 gifts totaling S10.47 §

To see full list of donors, visit www.akroncf.org/Donors.

**\$7.8** million in funding for **Summit County** nonprofits

\$9.7 MILLION

in grants and distributions from 300+ funds



## **Donor-Advised Funds**

Alice J. Caniglia Fund **Colby Wayne Enterprises Fund** Rebecca D. and William H. Considine Family Fund Chaker J. Fadel Fund **Thomas and Anita Gedelian Family Fund** Halkovich Family Charitable Fund Jones Group Interiors Charitable Fund Kanfer Family Fund Tom and Ginny Knoll Family Fund Lawrence and Christine Levey Family Fund **David and Janice Logsdon Charitable Fund Bill and Anne Lowery Family Fund** William and Angela Lowery Family Fund **Maxen Family Fund Newkome Saunders Family Fund Paul Davis Akron Fund Charles and Patricia Perrin Family Fund** William and Ginny Post Family Charitable Fund Joan Rog-Friend of Wildlife Fund **Seagren Family Fund** Silver Bullet Fund

In fiscal year 2016, we were pleased to welcome a record 50 new funds established by organizations and people from all walks of life.

## **Designated Funds**

#### City of Akron Blue Ribbon Task Force

To implement recommended actions of Mayor Daniel Horrigan's task force to improve the community's financial health, economic growth, leadership diversity and quality of life

Margaret Watts Hunter Tuesday Musical Guitar Scholarship Fund

To support an annual classical guitar scholarship at Tuesday Musical Association

Pearl Leeper Korman and Sandy Korman Auburn Fund

To support the Women's Endowment Fund

Herbert and Dianne Newman Fund

To benefit the Akron Art Museum

Northeast Ohio Healing Arts Alliance Fund

Established by Eileen Burg to integrate expressive therapies into mental health treatments

Reach Opportunity Center at Summit Lake Endowment Fund

Established by Eileen Burg to support the facility in the Summit Lake neighborhood

#### Judith A. Read Fund

To support the late philanthropist's favorite causes upon her passing, including United Disability Services and Bath United Church of Christ

Legacy Funds: Funds that were designed by their founders to grow in perpetuity.

## **Agency Endowment Funds**

ACCESS Endowment Fund

Autism Society of Greater Akron Endowment Fund Celebrate Children Endowment Fund of the Children's Concert Society of Akron

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio Endowment Fund

Mature Services Senior Love Endowment Fund

**NAMI Summit County Endowment Fund** 

**Ruth Renner-Percy Memorial Endowment Fund** 

Established by the Cuyahoga Valley Preservation and Scenic Railway Association to maintain the Renner-Percy coach car

South Akron Youth Mentorship Endowment Fund **Summit County Historical Society Endowment Fund Towpath Trail Endowment Fund** Village of St. Edward Future Fund

## 6 TYPES OF FUNDS Learn more about your fund options at www.akroncf.org/FundTypes.

#### **DO IT YOURSELF**

**Donor-Advised Funds** A great private foundation alternative – you choose the grants

**Designated Funds** Support one or more of your favorite organizations

**Agency Endowment Funds** A predictable stream of income for your nonprofit

## **Scholarship Funds**

## Italian American Professional and Businessmen's Club Scholarship Fund

To provide annual scholarships to senior high school students of Italian-American descent living in Summit County

#### Karl J. Roden Memorial Scholarship Fund

To provide scholarships to winners of the East Central Ohio Mensa chapter's annual essay competition

#### **Eugene and Arlene True Memorial Scholarship Fund**

To provide scholarships for the company's active employees and their spouses, children and grandchildren in memory of former Cleveland Punch & Die Company owners

## **Field-of-Interest Funds**

#### **Akron Community Cemetery Preservation Fund**

Established by David Venarge to restore historic gravesites and beautify public cemeteries in Coventry Township and/or Ward 7 of the City of Akron that offer free burials to veterans of the U.S. military

#### Kathryn Cooper Memorial Fund\*

Established by Robert and Regina Cooper in memory of their daughter, Kathryn, to support addiction recovery services and causes that Kathryn loved, like caring for animals

#### Elise's Corner Fund \*

Established by Christopher and Jennifer Bonsky in honor of their daughter Elise to support research efforts that will identify treatments, therapies and ultimately a cure for Alexander Disease and other leukodystrophies

#### Fighting For Alyssa - FFA Fund \*

Established by Lea Heidman in memory of her daughter Alyssa to support substance abuse awareness, prevention and treatment programs

#### Eric Michael Ward Fund for Wadsworth Against Substance Abuse \*

Established by Kelly Woolsey in memory of her son Eric to support substance abuse education and services in the Wadsworth community

#### Dr. Kenneth F. Swanson Fund for the Arts

Established through Dr. Swanson's bequest to support music and the fine arts

## **Unrestricted Funds**

Orpha and Howard Wellock,
Parents of Cheryl Wellock Fund

## Thank you, advisor partners

Thanks to the following accountants, attorneys and financial advisors for helping their clients fulfill their philanthropy with a fund at Akron Community Foundation:

**Bill Choler** Certified Public Accountant at CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

**Tom Clark** Managing Director and Investment Officer at Wells Fargo Advisors LLC

Steven Cox Partner at Roetzel & Andress LPA

**Joe Hinkle** Investment Portfolio Manager at Key Private Bank

**Brian Hostettler** Senior Vice President and Wealth Advisor at Key Private Bank

Chad Immel Financial Advisor at Edward Jones

Phil Kaufmann Partner at Stark & Knoll Co. LPA

**David Koly** President and Certified Public Accountant at Koly & Company Inc.

Paul Miller Owner and Attorney at Paul L. Miller Co. LPA

Mary Jo Morse Partner at Palecek, McIlvaine, Hoffmann & Morse Co. LPA

Roger Stevenson Partner at Roetzel & Andress LPA

Michael A. Sweeney Partner at Brouse McDowell LPA

**Ted Walter** Akron/Canton/Youngstown President at Fifth Third Bank

Are you an advisor? Learn how we can assist you at www.akroncf.org/Advisors.

#### DO IT WITH HELP

Scholarship Funds
Fund students' education in your
or a loved one's name

**Field-of-Interest Funds**Permanently advance a cause you're passionate about

**Unrestricted Funds**Meet the community's ever-changing needs

<sup>\*</sup> Advised field-of-interest funds: Donors advise grants within the founder's area of interest



#### Walking into the Perrin Asphalt offices,

one is met with the smiling faces of a tight-knit group of employees who are quick to crack a joke and truly enjoy working together.

But don't let the jovial atmosphere fool you: Perrin Asphalt & Paving Company was built on a family foundation of hard work, leading recently to two of its most successful years to date – and to the most unique Christmas gift ever received by the company's founders, Charlie and Patricia Perrin.

"They instilled in us you could achieve anything as long as you work hard ... the only person standing in the way is you," said Pam Kostoff, the payroll and accounts payable manager for Perrin Asphalt and the daughter of Charlie and Patricia. It's a sentiment she shares.

Kostoff recalls the humble beginnings of the paving and asphalt company, which was launched in 1963, the same year she was born. Her parents spent their days keeping the business afloat while still successfully raising eight children. "My mom never stopped," Kostoff said, adding she would sometimes hear the vacuum running late at night. "My parents never said, 'Get out there and work.' They just led by example."

Another way they led by example is by giving back. Kostoff remembers a transformative moment in the '80s.

"St. Eugene's Church needed its parking lot done; it was just seal coating and striping," Kostoff explained. At that point, the business was struggling. "They did not have the time or money to donate



**Pictured above:** CPA Bill Choler, Pam Kostoff, Patricia Perrin, Charlie Perrin, Kim Hengle, Jen Perrin and Jess Perrin

to that, but they did it anyway. And that changed the history of the Perrin family and Perrin Asphalt."

It was a living example of what her dad, Charlie, had always told her: "When you don't have a lot to give and you give it anyway, that's when it means the most."

#### **RECORD YEAR**

Things aren't quite so lean anymore, Kostoff points out. In fact, an increase in local road construction projects has meant record success for Perrin Asphalt. "Last year was our biggest year ever, and 2016 appears to be wrapping up the same as 2015," Kostoff said.

They've also added a third paving crew to the lineup. "There's more work out there. There's so much going on with the roads," she said. "Right now, we're very, very busy."

But as her parents always said, with success comes duty. So, when business flourished, the Perrin children chose to honor their parents in a way that would continue giving back to the community they love. To help, they turned to one of their most trusted advisors.

"Pam called me and said they wanted to do something for their parents' benefit, and they wanted to do something for the community," said Bill Choler, a CPA for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, who became the company's financial advisor in 2004.

At first, the family wanted to set up their own foundation, which he quickly advised against due to the amount of administrative work involved.



"My question to him was, 'How can we set this up?' And his response was, 'You don't want to do that. You want to call Akron Community Foundation because the paperwork is going to be too overwhelming," Kostoff said. "Bill is quite an advisor for us."

Choler pointed out that a donor-advised fund could accomplish everything she and her siblings wanted "with much less expense than setting up their own non-profit."

"The time commitment and the expense of setting up a foundation would far outweigh the benefits," Choler said. "With the administrative work handled by (Akron Community) Foundation, it enables the Perrin family to focus their efforts on helping the community."

While there are a variety of ways to give back, Choler knew he needed to find one that matched the reputation the Perrins had built over the years.

## "Their parents were really thrilled" Bill Choler, CPA

"There are a lot of (options) available, but Akron Community Foundation is very well-respected in the community, very well-thought-of and very well-managed. So there was no question that was the one we wanted them to go to. It gives a lot of flexibility to the fundholder," he said.

#### PHILANTHROPY MADE EASY

Kostoff was pleased with the simplicity of setting up her parents' fund. "It was a half-hour meeting with Laura Fink (director of development and professional advisor relations), and there really wasn't a whole lot for us to think about," she said.

Plus, the trust between the advisor and family made their decision easy: Choler, a family friend, has known the Perrins since his daughter and Charlie's grand-daughter attended fifth grade together.

Sometimes it's difficult to gauge at what point clients are ready for philanthropy, as it varies on a case-by-case basis, Choler said. But, when they're ready, setting up a fund at the community foundation is an easy way to meet his clients' objectives. It's also flexible.

"Some want scholarships; some have long-term goals of what they want to do," he explained. "So they could put money aside through the foundation and meet that long-term goal."

#### GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

To surprise Charlie and Patricia with news of the fund, the family held a Christmas party last year in Cuyahoga Falls with about 60 family members. "Nearly the whole family was there," said Kostoff. "It was extremely emotional."

"Their parents were really thrilled they set the (fund) up on their behalf," said Choler.

When asked what they thought of their unique gift, the Perrin parents were succinct: "There were many tears," said Patricia. "It was wonderful and such a big surprise," Charlie added.

Because of their strong family ties, Kostoff and her sister, Kim Hengle, anticipate the fund benefiting family-related nonprofits like Pregnancy Care and Catholic Charities. Of her mother, Kostoff said, "She wants to help. She wants to give to young families and help them raise their own families."

Charlie and Patricia say they already donate to organizations like the Haven of Rest homeless shelter and Good Neighbors food pantry in Goodyear Heights, and they look forward to giving under the name of their new fund. Charlie said the fund was a great surprise, but even more surprising is the growth of their company. After 50 years, he still shows up to work every day, usually after an early morning round of golf, Kostoff said.

Through the years, Perrin Asphalt has spun off additional companies, like PK Crushing in 2008, which recycles concrete and asphalt stones along with top soil.

"We've only got four employees on that crew, but it's quite an industry now," said Kostoff, who added that although Perrin Asphalt initially was the only company purchasing the recycled material, now they have "a lot of people purchasing it for their own projects."

Along with recycling asphalt and concrete, the Perrins stand out in their industry for operating as "green" as possible, participating in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, along with minimizing office waste and reusing oil from the equipment fleet to run the furnaces that heat their garage bays.

#### THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

Despite the years of growth for the company – it now has more than 90 employees and generates \$20 million a year – the Perrins' focus boils down not to pavement or stones, but to family: Charlie and Patricia have eight children, 24 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

"Family is the No. 1 thing," Patricia said.
"Raising kids, we're together throughout their whole lifetime," Charlie added.
"We're with them every day."

Through the family business and the charity from the Charles and Patricia Perrin Family Fund of Akron Community Foundation, the Perrins have a legacy that will live on for generations to come.



## What is a donor-advised fund?

Donor-advised funds are the fastest-growing charitable vehicle in the United States. For good reason: You can create one in as fast as an hour and receive the maximum tax benefit permitted by the IRS. There's no cost to start a donor-advised fund, and you can use the fund to support your favorite causes and charities now and for years to come.

## Does a donor-advised fund make sense for you?

The answer may be yes if you:

- **1.** Want maximum flexibility to give to various charities or change charitable beneficiaries over time
- **2.** Wish to involve your spouse, children, grandchildren or colleagues
- **3.** Could save income taxes by giving appreciated property instead of cash
- **4.** Are considering creating a private or family foundation but want to avoid the cumbersome and complicated IRS requirements for operating a foundation, as well as the considerable expense
- **5.** Want to maintain a steady level of charitable giving despite fluctuating income

**Learn more:** Download our free guide to donoradvised funds at **www.akroncf.org/DAFguide**.

- **6.** Have had an exceptionally high income year in which you need immediate charitable tax benefits but would prefer to defer your donations to charities until another time
- **7.** Prefer to be somewhat or fully anonymous in your giving
- **8.** Other than actually choosing which charities to donate to, prefer to have someone else handle the check writing, legal details and paperwork







In fiscal year 2016, Akron Community Foundation funds awarded \$321,000 in grants to 162 students, representing a variety of degrees and universities.

#### **AAUW of Medina County Scholarship**

Karen T. Knerem, The University of Akron Arlena Nicole Lockard, The University of Akron

#### Acorn Scholarship

Jordan E. Euell, Kent State University – – – – e Bichelle Jeffries, Ohio University
Dannysha Luna, The University of Akron
Derek C. Lutz, The University of Akron
Brittany Mosley, The Ohio State University
Zachary R. Spannbauer, The University of Toledo



#### Richard L. Averitte Memorial Scholarship

Courtney McNeil, Bowling Green State University

#### Black Tiger Gridiron Alumni Club Scholarship

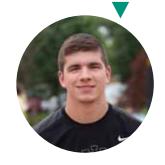
Nathan Enos, The Ohio State University Elijah Forbes, Virginia Military Institute -Johnny Rogers, The Ohio State University

#### Martin O. Chapman and Roberta M. Chapman Humanitarian Scholarship

Noland Palmer, Urbana University
Innocencia Sphapmixay, Kent State University (Stark Campus)

#### **Richard Chenoweth Qualified Designated Scholarship**

Stephanie M. Aceto, Kent State University Anthony W. Brown, Ohio University Carmen M. Connalley, The University of Akron Jordan E. Euell, Kent State University Catherine V. Farrance, The University of Akron Daisva M. Hadden, Kent State University Alexis N. Hanson, The University of Akron Alexandra L. Heminger, The University of Akron Latoya S. Higginbottom, Ohio Christian University Megan M. Hirsch, Kent State University JoAnna M. Hrepcak, The University of Akron Shariah P. Johnson, The Ohio State University Brooke L. Keller, The University of Akron Maurice L. Mackey, The University of Toledo Olivia M. Myers, The University of Akron Daniel V. Tassielllo, The Ohio State University Lindsey M. VonStein, The University of Akron Cara L. Walton, Bowling Green State University



#### **Coming Together Diversity Scholarship**

Michael Twymon III, Mount Vernon Nazarene University - -

#### Michael Corbett Memorial Scholarship

Anna M. Biasella, Ohio University Jillian R. Leiter, The University of Akron

#### Dirk J. Desanzo Memorial Scholarship

Shaun A. Gilmour, University of Nevada, Reno Kellie K. Holt, Kent State University Mitchell C. Monnin, University of Dayton Leslie A. Rush, Eastern Illinois University Brooke A. Tilley, Indiana University Bloomington



#### Dombo-Fielder Communication Scholarship for Women

Katherine M. Hickman, The University of Akron Bichelle Jeffries, Ohio University

#### **Margot Eiseman Scholarship**

Tess E. Powers, Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

#### Roland E. Gamble Memorial Scholarship

Sean M. Burnham, Baldwin Wallace University Rachel E. Johnstone, Northwestern University

#### Ann Lane Gates Scholarship

Simone M. Green, Lake Erie College

#### Erwin & Katherine Geis Scholarship

Gabrielle M. Azar, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School Sierra (Aaron) M. Azar, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School Carmella L. Grieder, Saint Albert the Great School Joseph R. Henry, The University of Akron Alexa L. Menichini, Ohio University Vincent S.L. Schillero, St. Barnabas Catholic School

#### Glick-Zedak Scholarship

Ashley Hendricks, Wright State University Brandon Latham, Kent State University

#### Hanlon Family Scholarship

Alex Philip, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School

#### Morgan Hasbrouck 4-H Scholarship

Ryan Kisamore, The Ohio State University Megan Macintyre, State University of New York at Fredonia

#### Timothy L. Holston Scholarship

Jacob Bauer, Kent State University Kacia Robinson, Ohio University

#### Abby Lipply Memorial Scholarship

Laura Kloostra, Kent State University Crystal Song, Carnegie Melon University -

#### **Litchfield Community Scholarship**

Mikayla J. Lepole, Bowling Green State University Hannah R. Stacy, Ferrum College Michaela A. Yurik, Kent State University

#### Joan Lutz Scholarship

Lori Cook, Walsh University Nicholas Klein, The Ohio State University Tim Reiman, Miami University

#### Scott T. Malson Memorial Scholarship

Tanner L. Nelson, The Ohio State University Matthew Rightnour, University of Dayton

#### **Marbles Champions Scholarship**

Monica Feltman, The University of Akron

#### Frank Meadows Scholarship

Hannah Isenhart, Stark State College

#### Medina Sunrise Rotary Scholarship

Daniel A. Chudzinski, The University of Toledo Julie N. Matz, Miami University Kendra Willhoite, Miami University

#### **Esther Simonetti Owen Future Educators Scholarship**

Hanna Kester, The University of Akron

#### Anne K. Petry Scholarship

Robert L. Harris III, Bowling Green State University

#### **Bettie Portwood Summit County Pest Control Association Scholarship**

Hunter T. Olds, The University of Akron

#### **Ruocco-Hudson Small Group Instruction Scholarship**

Ross P. Thrams, Ohio Northern University

#### Faye L. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Cartier Jankura, Gettysburg College Kendra Shaw, Miami University - - -Maurine C. Speight, Walsh University Megan Stobaugh, The University of Akron Grace Stockert, Ashland University

#### John T. and Julia A. Spellman Scholarship

Michaela C. Blom, The Ohio State University Mary Bozsik, Marquette University Shana R. DeBerte, The University of Akron Olivia M. Myers, The University of Akron Tyler C. Severns, The University of Akron Daniel V. Tassielllo, The Ohio State University Kelly N. Weitzel, Kent State University



### Michelle M. Vasenda Scholarship

Emma R. Bowden, The University of Findlay

#### David R. Venarge Scholarship

Collin R. Hefner, Stark State College Paige K. Marty, Northeast Ohio Medical University Lindsev E. Ritenour. The University of Akron Bridget N. Star, Ferris State University Madison L. Summers, University of Cincinnati

#### **Edith Wiskind English Literacy Scholarship**

Makenzie C. Conner, University of Central Florida

#### Witan Presidents' Scholarship

Kay Miller, The University of Akron

#### Woman's Club of Hudson Scholarship

Allison Baylor, Valparaiso University Haley Sommer, Kent State University Kaylyn Sweitzer, North Park University

#### **Vincent Yambrovich Engineering Scholarship**

Jakeb N. Johnson, The University of Akron Sean M. Malloy, Miami University



#### **HUDSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENDOWMENT FUND RECIPIENTS**

#### Marion Albee Scholarship

Nathaniel Schumacher, Ohio University

#### **Barlow Scholarship**

Julia Barbur, Case Western Reserve University Kennedey Bell, Pennsylvania State University Alair Boshela, Kent State University Jenna Bouquet, Kenyon College

Alexis Boyages, Denison University

Dylan Carlson, The Ohio State University

Thomas E. Collins, The Ohio State University (Honors College)

Loretta Cook, Walsh University Emily Erdmann, Miami University

Allison Evans, Ohio University

Deanna Fernando, Cornell University College of Engineering

Jennifer Frantz, Yale University

Kendall Furbee, University of Illinois-Urbana

Mary Catherine Good, The Ohio State University

Ashley Gough, Miami University

Olivia Green, Northeast Ohio Medical University - - - - - -

Jessica Hill, Miami University Will Hogan, Miami University Daniel Huang, Johns Hopkins University Linsey Hughes, Stetson University Matt Hutcheson, The Ohio State University Chris Ito, Miami University Benjamin Janesch, The Ohio State University Jared Jesionek, The Ohio State University Margaret Jia, Cornell University Rachel Johnstone, Northwestern University Connor Kasarda, The Ohio State University Yeji Kim, Johns Hopkins University Brittany Kozar, Miami University Megan Lee. Northwestern University Maureen Madar, Denison University Alec James Maier, The Ohio State University Jacqueline Mazurek, The Ohio State University Sean McKeon, Miami University David McVan, University of Kentucky Hannah Monsman, Kent State University Tanner Nelson, The Ohio State University Michael (Max) Orazen, The Ohio State University Patricia Penlington, The Ohio State University Anne Peterson, University of Dayton Sydney Pilarcik, The Ohio State University (Honors College) Meredith Pinkerton, Colorado State University Alexis Proskovec, Kent State University Lvdia Ramlo, Ohio University Ashley Reed, University of Georgia Tim Reiman, Miami University Colton Rowell, Miami University Kelsey Russo, University of Georgia Haley Sommer, Kent State University Crystal Song, Carnegie Melon University Jacob Stuursma, College of Wooster Jielu Wang, University of Chicago Chloe Webster, New York University Hannah E. Wright, Kent State University Steven Xie. Case Western Reserve University

#### **Helen Barlow Art Scholarship**

Laura Kloostra, Kent State University

#### Harry D. Bubb Scholarship

Joe Martin, University of Dayton

#### **Arthur Caniglia Scholarship**

Dean Miller, Kent State University

#### **Scott Case Memorial Scholarship**

Jensen Ferris, Ohio University Dominic Polifrone, Baldwin Wallace University

#### Les Dingledine Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Gough, Miami University Tim Reiman, Miami University

#### **Hudson Bicentennial Scholarship**

Colton Rowell, Miami University

#### **Hudson Fire Department Association Scholarship**

Cate Cronan, Ohio University

#### Raymond Hyser Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Rightnour, University of Dayton Sarah Wolanske, Miami University

#### Pauline Klupinski Memorial Scholarship

Teghan Piper, Ohio University

## Dante B. Lavelli Athletic Academic Scholarship

Michael (Max) Orazen, The Ohio State University

#### **Burton D. Morgan Foundation Scholarship**

Kendall Furbee, University of Illinois-Urbana Olivia Green, Northeast Ohio Medical University Andrew Kern, Colorado State University

#### June Young Pak Memorial Scholarship

Jared Jesionek, The Ohio State University Reid Robinson, The University of Toledo -

#### Stevenson Award

Crystal Song, Carnegie Mellon University

# Ten years ago, I participated in the Akron Marbles Tournament and was crowned the 2005 girls champion. In addition to this auspicious award and large trophy, I was granted the Marbles Champions Scholarship.

I entered the University of Akron last fall majoring in civil engineering. So far, I have loved every minute of my time here and have been very successful in all my endeavors. I finished both semesters on the College of Engineering dean's list.

The Marbles Champions Scholarship has enabled me to join so many wonderful groups here on campus. The peace of mind that a scholarship gives to a student is unlike any other. I am forever grateful.



**Start A Scholarship!** Want to help local students pursue their educational dreams? Start a scholarship fund in your, your family's or your organization's name. To learn more, call Vice President and Chief Development Officer **Margaret Medzie at 330-436-5610.** 





The small group of tables outside the Summit Lake Recreation Center bears fresh food, educational handouts and bite-sized healthy food samples, like Ms. Julie's kale chips. A sign on one grower's table reads, "SNAP cards accepted here." It signifies progress for many residents of this South Akron neighborhood: They can now use their state food assistance credit to purchase fresh, locally sourced produce literally in their backyard.

For more than a decade, getting healthy food to "food deserts" like Summit Lake has been a labor of love for Beth Knorr, a member of the Summit Food Coalition since its 2009 inception. In May 2016, Knorr became Summit County's first food director with initial funding from Akron Community Foundation.

#### **HOMEGROWN TALENT**

"My husband and I managed one of the very first CSAs (community supported agriculture) in Northeast Ohio," Knorr said. Her family grew more than 200 varieties of organic fruits and vegetables, so she understands the nuances and challenges of the local food economy. "Based on that experience, knowing what it's like to struggle as a small-scale farmer, and to sell at farmers markets, it has really driven me to advocate for farmers and growers," she said.

Knorr's position is multifaceted, and its goals represent the key findings of a food assessment commissioned by Akron Community Foundation, which was published by Round River Consulting in 2014. The study named access to healthy food and nutritional education among its top priorities

"(It) really helped us to see what's needed in the community ... what is actually happening, who's involved and what are the missing pieces," Knorr said. "There's a lot of wonderful work happening already with regards to local food. We need to focus on how we get all of these organizations communicating with one another, how we get people collaborating where it makes sense, and how we educate the public that isn't involved with this industry with what is happening in their backyard."

Julie Costell, an urban farmer and owner of Ms. Julie's Kitchen in South Akron, is one of those backyard farmers. She is also a member of the Summit Food Coalition. Like Knorr, she fully embraced the life of a grower, but only after a heart attack at the young age of 35 forced her to examine – and change – her eating habits. Now, her passion is making healthy food accessible in urban areas so people like her can lead longer, healthier lives.

#### **PLANTING THE SEED**

Costell also believes in combining access with education – and starting young.

"One of the best events we did was the salsa contest at a local elementary school," Costell said. "I think it is helpful, especially when the parents come and try things. One of my Summer Youth kids got his aunt (who has diabetes) to start making black bean burgers."

Karen Edwards of Akron agrees. Her program, City Sprouts, teaches inner-city children ages 7 to 12 organic farming and sustainable land practices. They learn everything from farming, eating and exercise to recycling and conserving water – "things I teach my own children," Edwards said.

"Organic food is very difficult to come by for many families. I teach them how to do it so they can either have what's here or they can help their parents at home, and when they're adults they'll know how to do this," she explained.

#### **GROWING SENIOR POPULATION**

Knorr says food access is especially crucial for vulnerable populations like children and older adults. According to Feeding

America, there are more than 87,000 food insecure people in Summit County, a 16.2 percent food insecurity rate. From 2001 to 2014, the number of Summit County seniors experiencing food insecurity increased 47 percent. At the same time, the number of seniors in Summit County increased 119 percent, making them a growing population, one that is "just one bad thing away from being financially crippled," said Karen Hrdlicka, president and CEO of Mature Services.

"Seniors face unique obstacles to traditional solutions to food insecurity," Hrdlicka explained. "Many forms of senior transportation will limit the amount of food that can be transported as part of their service, which means the senior needs to make more frequent, smaller trips, which can be cost prohibitive. Mobility is another issue, especially in the winter months, because as we age our balance and mobility naturally diminish. Then, you add to that the time in the elements and lugging groceries, and the senior may just choose to go without rather than risking their health to venture out for food."

Dawn Moeglin, the organization's director of community engagement, points out that in addition to being less expensive than fresh local produce, premade, preservative-laden meals often cook more quickly and can be stored for longer periods of time – all considerations for an aging generation that is also caring for their children's children. "For seniors caring for grandchildren, preparation of food can be too time and labor intensive when juggling the challenges of running a multigenerational household," she said.

A common misconception is that all food insecure people receive public assistance, but as Hrdlicka points out, many seniors fall into a "gap population" that can't afford healthy food but don't meet



poverty guidelines because they own their home or receive retirement income. To keep seniors from falling through the cracks, Mature Services offers farmers market vouchers, which seniors can use to buy fresh produce. "Their popularity demonstrates how in demand fresh produce is in the senior community," she said.

Knorr is encouraged by these developments but agrees more must be done.

"There are farmers markets and farm stands in the community that accept Senior Farmers Market Nutrition coupons, which is such a great program since we know seniors are such a vulnerable population," said Knorr. "Additionally, the WIC program in Summit County piloted their farmers market nutrition program this summer, which serves expecting mothers as well as young children by helping them purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers. These programs really get to the heart of the issues the coalition addresses by enabling programs to be a win-win for both the customers as well as the farmers."

#### **FOOD, SOCIAL ISSUES INTERTWINED**

Akron Community Foundation's recent community report, "Creating Measurable Community Impact," identifies food insecurity as a critical social indicator that impacts other social issues like employment, income and physical health. And the data indicates the need for action: The number of Summit County residents receiving state food assistance, or SNAP benefits, increased 95 percent to 86,578 in 2013. That figure does not include food insecure residents in the assistance gap.

While the average SNAP benefit increased by \$56 per month between 2003 and 2011 to \$146 per month, it has since declined to \$135 per month during the last two years. That decline has caused food pantry use to increase 75 percent in Summit County since 2006. While vital, pantry resources can be limited. Knorr suggests local food production is a possible solution – one that would also create economic opportunities for food growers, producers and processors.

The recently opened Hattie's Food Hub in Akron offers jobs to local residents along with a place for startup food businesses to produce and process their food. Located in an identified food desert near the Akron Zoo, the hub features a corner market that sells freshly grown local produce; an industrial produce washer that washes up to 700 pounds of greens per hour; thermal processing of acidic food like pasta sauce, jams, jellies and baked goods; and a two-stage blast chiller, which will allow the center to freeze items quickly while retaining the food's nutritional value and flavor.

"The fact that they have a storefront there is incredibly impor-

tant (in a food desert)," Knorr said. "They're helping small-scale businesses be able to tackle some of the processing, whether it's a farmer or local food business. They're able to provide that service to local businesses and train their clients. When these businesses do grow and establish their own kitchens or storefronts, they have a trained workforce that they can then hire."

#### **CULTIVATING CHANGE**

The Summit Food Coalition is not the only food-based initiative funded by Akron Community Foundation. Along with capacity-building grants to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, a number of food-based projects have received funding through the Neighborhood Partnership Program, an initiative supported by the community foundation and the City of Akron. Funded projects include a new community orchard, where residents will be able to pick their own fresh fruit and nuts; an edible walk-through in conjunction with Ms. Julie's Kitchen; Let's Grow Akron, which has been providing healthy food access to residents through community gardens for nearly three decades; and the aforementioned City Sprouts youth gardening and healthy living programs.

With collaboration among growers, funders and nonprof-

its in the community, Knorr is optimistic about the current landscape, especially with the increased understanding of local food production.

"I remember when I first started farming and said that I was doing a CSA program, nobody knew what that was," she said. "Just the understanding of food and where it comes from has increased a lot over the last 20 years, (along with) the understanding of the challenges and how increasing access to food can improve the qual-

ity of life for so many in our community. It's not just a few kinds of fringe organizations that are talking about it anymore. It's a lot of organizations having serious conversations about how to support these businesses because they know it's going to have a dramatic effect on improving the quality of life for the citizens and the individuals in our communities."

# **Creating Measurable Community Impact**

This 16-page report outlines five key issues facing Summit County – employment, early childhood poverty, food insecurity, transportation and our growing senior population – as well as their relationship to one another and oppor-

tunities for collaboration and improvement.

View it online at www.akroncf.org/CommunityReport.





#### **BATH COMMUNITY FUND**

On June 18, 2015, thanks to the collective contributions of 85 founding donors, Bath Community Fund achieved its initial \$250,000 fundraising goal just one year and one day after it was founded. The fund's "For Bath, Forever" endowment campaign officially reached \$251,314.53 in gifts and pledges. Since then, the fund has received almost another \$100,000 in gifts from generous residents and businesses alike.

With the Founding Donor campaign completed, Bath Community Fund's advisory board is now working on its next goal – raising \$2.018 million by Bath's bicentennial in 2018. An endowment of more than \$2 million will enable Bath Community Fund to award at least \$100,000 in grants each year to nonprofits that preserve the unique legacy of Bath Township now and for many generations to come.

But Bath Community Fund isn't waiting to complete its campaign before making a difference in the community. The fund awarded its first grants on Nov. 18, 2016. For a complete list of recipients, visit www.akroncf.org/BCFgrants.

#### **GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND**

During fiscal year 2016, the Gay Community Endowment Fund awarded 11 grants totaling \$37,186 for programs that positively impact the local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Grants provided diversity training to volunteers and professionals serving the LGBT community; bullying prevention programs in local

schools; screenings of LGBT films in downtown Akron; and support groups for LGBT senior citizens, among many other programs. The fund announced its most recent grants on Nov. 18, 2016. For a complete list of recipients, visit www.akroncf.org/GCEFgrants.



In May 2016, Gay Community Endowment Fund officials joined former Summit County Executive Russ Pry in unveiling a commemorative sculpture to celebrate the legacy of Gay Games 9 in Greater Akron. The sculpture, which was designed by local artist Don Drumm, is permanently displayed in the Susan L. Hamo Plaza of the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau at the

intersection of East Mill and South High streets. The Gay Community Endowment Fund was the platinum sponsor of the 2014 Gay Games, which generated more than \$52 million for the Northeast Ohio economy and created a lasting environment of inclusion and diversity.

#### MEDINA COUNTY COMMUNITY FUND

In 2016, the Medina County Community Fund awarded 11 grants totaling \$25,750 to nonprofit organizations that improve the lives of Medina County residents. The majority of the amount awarded went to programs that help meet residents' basic needs, including transportation, clothing, food and health care.

Other grants funded programs to build trust between police officers and local youth, purchased socks and underwear for families in need, and enriched the community through free performances and art programs, among other projects. Applications for 2017 grants are due March 1. Apply online at www.akroncf.org/ApplyMCCF.

In recent months, current and former board members of the Medina County Community Fund have gathered to discuss a strategic plan for growing the endowment and increasing its impact on Medina County. Priorities include raising awareness of the fund, cultivating board members, and building relationships with professional advisors in the community. Learn more about their plan and how you can get involved at www.akroncf.org/MCCFplan.

#### MEDINA COUNTY WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2016, the Medina County Women's Endowment Fund awarded seven grants totaling \$11,250 to nonprofit organizations that improve the lives of women and children in Medina County. More than half of the amount awarded supported programs for students in Medina County schools. Other grants provided transportation to medical appointments for women in need, supported suicide prevention programs in Medina County high schools, and purchased

educational materials to prevent child sexual abuse. Applications for 2017 grants are due March 1. Apply online at www.akroncf.org/ApplyMCWEF.

On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Medina County Women's Endowment Fund celebrated 10 years of bidding and giving at the 10th annual Festival of Trees. Nearly 300 peo-

ple attended the event, which featured live and silent auctions of uniquely decorated trees and other holiday décor items, as well as dinner and wine. Guests had the opportunity to get a head start on their holiday shopping while ultimately supporting women and children in Medina County. Last year's event raised more than \$25,000 and helped increase the fund's grantmaking to agencies such as the Children's Center of Medina County and LifeAct.

#### MILLENNIUM FUND FOR CHILDREN

Fiscal year 2016 saw a resurgence of interest in the Millennium Fund for Children. Members of its advisory board, including founding donors from the Akron Beacon Journal, created a sponsorship

program to grow the fund's grantmaking dollars while providing an opportunity for local businesses to align with our community's only permanent endowment benefiting children in the Beacon Journal's distribution area.

AKRON COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

LENNIUM
FOR CHILDREN

Sponsors receive recognition in all of the paper's Millennium Fund advertis-

ing, which lasts throughout the holiday season. To learn more about sponsorship, call Renee Scherick, development and donor engagement specialist at 330-436-5612. Or, to contribute to the fund, visit www.akroncf.org/give/MillenniumFund.

In all, the fund awarded 32 grants totaling \$46,578 during fiscal year 2016 to children's programs throughout Summit, Portage and Medina counties. Grants introduced low-income children to organic farming and gardening, supported arts-based social events for children with autism, purchased gifts for children in foster care, and much more. For a list of the most recently awarded grants, visit www.akroncf.org/MillenniumGrants.

#### **VERNON L. ODOM FUND**

In 2016, the Vernon L. Odom Fund awarded \$16,000 to 16 non-profit organizations for programs that promote diversity and enrich the quality of life within local minority communities. Two of the grants supported programs designed to introduce minority youth to careers in science, technology, engineering and math, fields in which African-Americans in particular are significantly underrepresented.

Other grants taught middle school students about religious diversity, helped African-American fathers develop closer relationships with their children, and more. For a list of the most recently awarded grants, visit www.akroncf.org/OdomGrants.

Named for the late esteemed leader of the Akron Urban League, the Vernon L. Odom Fund is currently accepting applications for 2017 grants. Applications are due Dec. 15, 2016. Apply online at www.akroncf.org/ApplyOdom.

#### WOMEN'S ENDOWMENT FUND

In March 2016, the Women's Endowment Fund honored one of its most passionate supporters, Judy Read, with its inaugural Judith A. Read Tribute Award for Service & Advocacy for Women. Judy received the award at the fund's annual dinner, where she was celebrated as a tireless advocate, passionate volunteer and insightful leader. Going forward, the award will be presented annually to an individual who – like Judy – exemplifies

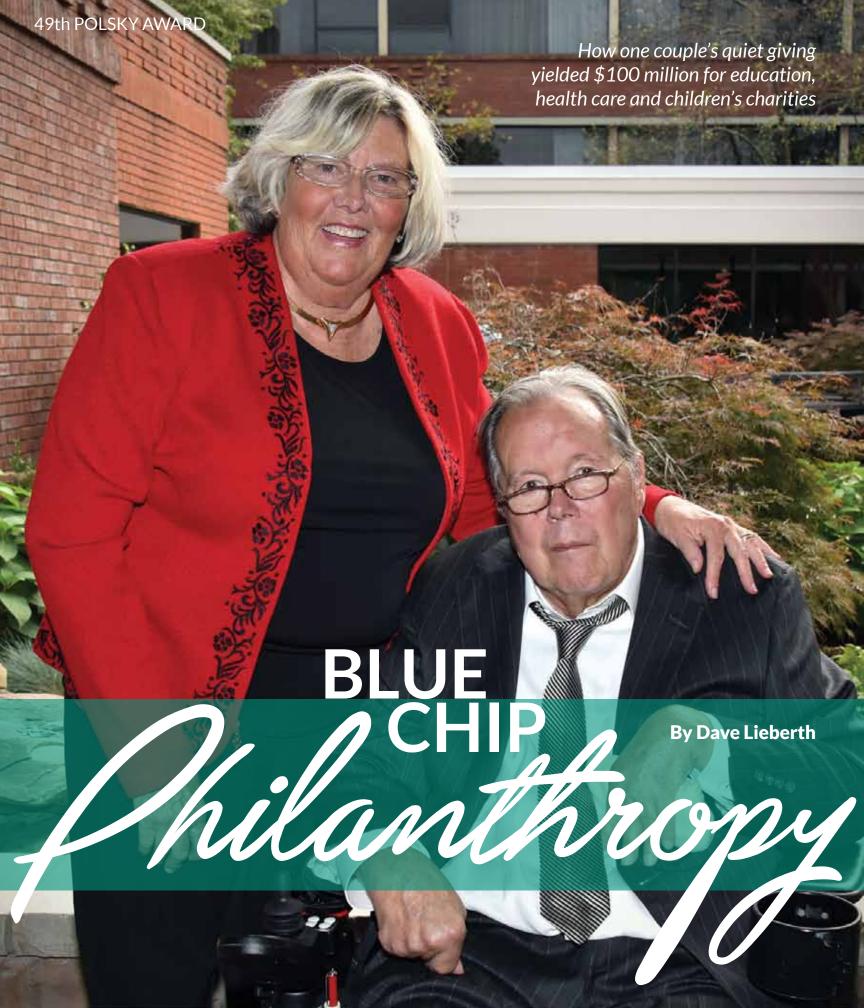
the Women's Endowment Fund's mission of uplifting women and girls.

Judy lost her battle with cancer on May 12, 2016, just four days after Mother's Day, one of the most celebrated holidays for the Women's Endowment Fund. Many local residents honored her and the other special women in their lives with a gift to the fund



in their name. As a result, WEF raised a record \$19,363 during its newly branded campaign, "Who is Your SHEro?" The people they honored received a special card telling them of the gift and thanking them for being a SHEro. A full list of honorees can be found starting on page 30.

In February 2016, the fund awarded 15 grants totaling \$98,500 to nonprofit organizations that improve life for Summit County's women and girls. For a list of the most recently awarded grants, visit www.akroncf.org/WEFgrants.



Jim and Vanita Oelschlager are living proof of what kids raised in a steel town should be. In the 1960s, when blast furnaces forged steel, Pittsburgh exported children with the toughness of iron alloyed with determination.

High school sweethearts – separated by the circumstances of their lives – they met as teenagers at the Methodist church to which their families were devoted. She was the tallest girl in school and a year older than Jim. He was her first boyfriend at Mt. Lebanon High School, but they lost contact when Jim's interest waned in his junior year and Vanita went away to college.

She went to Mount Union. He would go to Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and law school at Northwestern. Individually, they established careers, married and started families. After 25 years or so, they both were single again, and the story of their reunion is worthy of a Hallmark TV movie.

On Oct. 18, 2016, Akron Community Foundation honored Jim and Vanita as the 49th recipients of the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award. Since 1991, they have been partners in life, partners in business, and a power couple in philanthropy. Over three decades, they have made charitable gifts exceeding \$100 million in the Greater Akron community and beyond.

#### **BORN EARNING**

Their direction in life was established early. Jim had a paper route at age 10, which eventually allowed him to become a financial powerhouse in his neighborhood. He even lent money to his father, who was so concerned about Jim accumulating cash that he introduced Jim to a stockbroker. Jim's appetite for investing was whetted when he discovered that cashing dividend checks was much easier than lugging newspapers around.

As a preteen, Vanita was also an entrepreneur. She started a babysitting business (at 50 cents an hour) that allowed her to buy her own new car at the age of 16.

Jim admits to not being a very attentive student in high school, preferring cross-country track, band and having fun to his studies. But he excelled in scouting, reaching the rank of Eagle. (Recently, the Boy Scouts of America elevated him to "Distinguished Eagle," one of only 2,100 men ever honored.)

Jim applied to Denison University, but he was literally at the bottom of their acceptance list. This contributed to some small irony in 2004 when Denison's president sought funding for a new biological science building. Jim answered with the largest single gift in the school's history: \$20 million for Samson Talbot Hall. (Gifts of such magnitude usually include naming privileges. The Oelschlagers have chosen not to have buildings named after themselves.)

While at Denison, Jim became an "A" student. Meanwhile, at Mount Union, despite loving school almost as much as she loved children, Vanita became terribly homesick. But President Dr. Carl C. Bracy soon befriended her and made her four years at Mount Union memorable. Years later, in 2003, Vanita and Jim paid tribute to Dr. Bracy with a \$20 million gift to build the Bracy Hall of Science, a four-story natural sciences facility that houses the biology, chemistry, geology, physics and astronomy departments. Today, Vanita serves on the school's board of trustees.

#### LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITY

After graduating from Mount Union, Vanita taught second-, third- and fourth-grade students at schools in Columbus, Alliance and Lorain. After her own two children were in school, she opened a preschool that always had a waiting list



Halfway across the country, Jim attended law school at Northwestern. When a law professor offered students a job opportunity on the side, Jim was the only taker. G.D. Searle Company would provide Jim with a ready-made career after graduation. He started in the legal department but shortly thereafter became assistant secretary and assistant treasurer, his entrée into the investment arena.

The broker who handled stock accounts for Searle also handled investments for Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron. The tire company was looking for a young man who could create an in-house investment program for its pension plan, which was underfunded by \$300 million in 1969. Not only did Jim fit the bill as the portfolio manager, but he made the fund solvent. By 1984, his savvy instincts had produced a \$300 million surplus in the pension fund, enabling Firestone to terminate the plan and put \$300 million back into the company – more than they made selling tires.

Jim left Firestone in 1985, and the company became his major client when he opened his own investment shop in Akron called Oak Associates. It was a name that was easy to remember and embraced Jim's love of trees.

Today, Oak Associates is a premier national investment firm, offering portfolio management for pension funds, endowments, foundations and individuals. In recent years, Money Magazine has named Jim the No. 1 portfolio manager in the country.

#### **A MATURING BOND**

In 1991, Jim and Vanita tied the knot, but marriage to Jim also meant Vanita would become Jim's primary caregiver and travel companion. Jim was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1973 at age 31, a diagnosis he calls a "speed bump."

"Everybody has inconvenience in their lives," says Jim. "Mine just shows a little bit better. I can still do all the things that are important, (like) taking care of my family and making a contribution to society."

While the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has received more than \$1 million from the Oelschlagers, the keystone of the couple's support for people with MS is the Oak Clinic in Green, which they founded in 2000. It's a place designed exclusively for patients with MS, and the Oelschlagers have supported it with more than \$20 million since its founding. Patients are treated by a multidisciplinary team of professionals that provide a holistic approach to care – regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

The James and Vanita Oelschlager Foundation, the 11th-largest foundation based in Akron, will ultimately receive the bulk of their estates and is committed to supporting the Oak Clinic well into the future, as well as Akron Children's Hospital, the University of Akron and other charities.

Through her work with the Oak Clinic, Vanita has seen firsthand how MS impacts families – especially children. Vanita's experiences inspired her to write a children's book titled "My Grampy Can't Walk," which was published by the Cleveland Clinic Press. A second book followed called "Let Me Bee," which she wrote for her grandson with a bee phobia. Since then, Vanita has written nearly 30 books for children ages 4 through 8. Each book addresses a fear that a child may have and then resolves the issue through the story's plot and the reassuring guidance of a parent. Vanita donates all proceeds from the sale of her books to charities aligned with the themes of the books.

#### **PAYING DIVIDENDS**

In addition to the couple's remarkable strides in caring for people with multiple sclerosis, patients of all kinds in Greater Akron have benefited from the Oelschlagers' generosity. Their total gifts

to Akron Children's Hospital have exceeded \$12 million, including funding for a Center for Child Advocacy, an

Adoption Advocacy Fund and a Global Health Fund. In 2010, they donated their private plane to Children's Hospital in order to transport supplies and a group of physicians and health care workers to earthquake-stricken Haiti.

Summa Health System received the couple's first million-dollar gift in 1996. They have also funded the Jim and Vanita Oelschlager Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Summa.

Since then, Jim and Vanita have made million-dollar gifts to the Cleveland Clinic, the Montrose Zion United Methodist Church, the Asbury Heights Methodist residential center in Pennsylvania, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, and the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Massachusetts.

#### INTEREST IN EDUCATION

Education is another cornerstone of the Oelschlagers' philanthropy. The couple has given \$19 million to the University of Akron for scholarships and programs. Started in 2000, the Oelschlager Summer Leadership Institute at the university brings high school students to the campus for a seven-day workshop. At week's end, awards of \$500 are presented to deserving students.

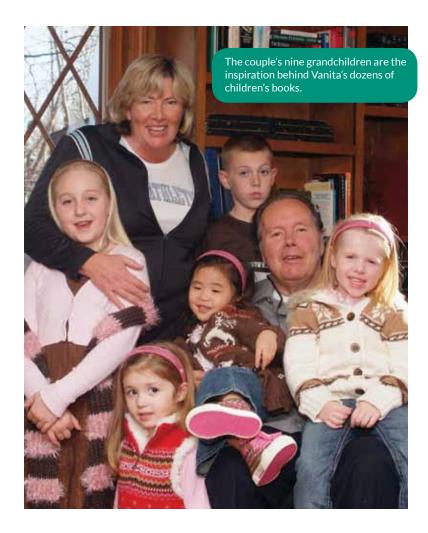
The university's Institute for Human Science and Culture at the Cummings Center for the History of Psychology, which grants the only undergraduate certificate in museum studies in the country, will also be home to the Oelschlagers' world-class

collection of Native American artifacts.

Another of the Oelschlagers' charitable endeavors helps college students gain experience in investing. The couple donated \$50,000 to the investment clubs at 20 different colleges to allow students to manage real money as they hone their investment skills. An awards banquet is held every

year where additional funds are donated to the club with the best returns.

Of his own grandchildren's education, Jim had this to say: "A grandfather has two jobs. The first is to help with financial aid, and the second is to teach the kids how to eat ice cream... preferably out of the carton."

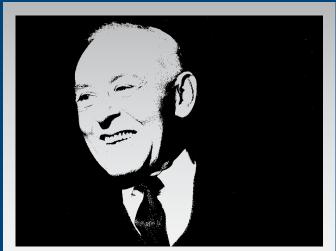


#### **INVESTING IN PEOPLE**

Over their lifetimes, Jim and Vanita have helped scores of individuals and families achieve their dreams through gifts and loans, often made at a time of personal crisis. "You don't have to have a lot of money to make a difference," Jim said. "We can all remember a time in our life when \$100 would have been a big deal. Small dollar amounts can have a major impact at the right time."

At the Polsky Humanitarian Award Dinner, Jim and Vanita thanked the hundreds of relatives, coworkers and clients that have enabled them to be generous. "Along the way, somebody gave us a break," Jim said. "Somebody had confidence in us. You don't owe it to those people to do anything for them, but you do owe it to society to do something for somebody else and give somebody else a break along the road."

Altogether, Jim and Vanita have donated more than \$100 million to help individuals and charities all over, but as does every great investor, Jim has a formula: "A test I apply to myself when I'm considering a request for money is, 'Would I rather die with an extra \$1,000 in my bank account or help this person?"





OF AKRON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Each year, Akron Community Foundation presents the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award to the individual or couple who best exemplifies Bert Polsky's selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron.

A committee of past Polsky Humanitarian Award honorees reviews nominations from the community annually, using the following criteria to choose the honoree(s):

- Exceptional volunteer service and commitment to the Greater Akron community
- Tireless efforts to improve the community's quality of life
- Outstanding personal commitment that inspires others
- Leadership and local community service that goes well beyond professional or employment responsibilities

For more information about the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award, or to see a full list of honorees, visit www.akroncf.org/Polsky.



#### **NEW AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUND SETS RECORD**

Summit Metro Parks recently established the Summit Metro Parks Foundation Endowment Fund at Akron Community Foundation, which will support the park district and its foundation's charitable, educational and scientific initiatives. The \$3.5 million establishing gift was the second-largest gift to an agency endowment fund in the community foundation's history.

## ACF FUNDHOLDER, VP AMONG TOP CFOs

Congratulations to our vice president and CFO, **Steve Schloenbach**, who received this year's Crain's Nonprofit CFO of the Year Award, which honors Northeast Ohio's top fiscal officers. He was one of three finalists identified in the Nonprofit category.

Mark Gamble, an advisor to the Roland E. Gamble Memorial Fund and CFO of Ramco Specialties Inc., also was named top CFO in the Private Company category.

The CFO Awards took place at the Cleveland InterContinental Hotel in late October. Congratulations, gentlemen!





#### **BELOVED FUNDHOLDER PASSES**

We recently said goodbye to one of Akron's most generous individuals when **Mary Booth**, 92, passed away. She made a career as a social worker and cared deeply about the community, whether

it was finding families for children awaiting adoption, volunteering to feed the homeless, or caring for her own six children. She and her late husband, Charles, both community foundation fundholders, made a significant gift to help build our office at 345 W. Cedar St., and it's a gift that's still acknowledged with our Charles E. and Mary K. Booth Conference Room.



To donate to the Mary K. Booth Endowment Fund of the Women's Endowment Fund, established by Mary's daughter Kathy in honor of her many contributions to the community, visit www.akroncf.org/give/MaryBoothFund.

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NAMED AMONG LARGEST GRANTMAKERS

Akron Community Foundation was named the fourth-largest grant-making foundation in Northeast Ohio by Crain's Cleveland Business, awarding nearly \$10 million in grants last year thanks to the generosity of donors and fundholders like you. We are grateful for your partnership in improving our community.

#### **BOARD MEMBER NABS COUNTY'S HIGHEST OFFICE**

On Nov. 8, Akron Community Foundation board member **Ilene Shapiro** was elected Summit County's first female county executive. Shapiro, a 10-year Summit County Council veteran and a founding mother of our Women's Endowment Fund, currently chairs Akron Community Foundation's Community Investment Committee.

She has more than 25 years of experience in economic development, including through her business, Shapiro Consulting. We look forward to partnering with Ilene and Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan to improve the collective quality of life throughout our cities and county.



## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PRESENTS PHILANTHROPY IN BUSINESS AWARD

Congratulations to **Cohen & Co.**, the 2016 recipient of the Akron Community Foundation Philanthropy in Business Award. The award recognizes the Cascade Capital Business Growth Awards honoree with exceptional leadership in the area of corporate philanthropy. Last year's recipient was Main

Street Gourmet.

In 2014, Cohen & Co. created Cohen Cares, a firm-wide volunteer program that encourages its 400 employees to give back to the communities where they live and work, including at their annual day of service. Thanks, Cohen & Co., for all you do in our community.



#### **ACF WINS COMMUNICATION HONORS**

Akron Community Foundation recently received The Academy of Interactive & Visual Arts' highest honor, the Communicator Awards' Award of Excellence, in the Brochure – Fundraising category for "Leave Your Mark," our guide to planned giving. "Celebrate!" our 60th anniversary campaign, earned an Award of Distinction.

The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. This year's Communicator Awards received thousands of entries from companies and agencies of all sizes, making it one of the largest awards of its kind in the world. See our award-winning guide to planned giving at www.akroncf.org/BequestGuide. For a printed copy, call 330-436-5619.



**We Love Good News!** Have some good news about one of our staff or board members, past committee members, fundholders or grantees? Send your noteworthy news to **tboyes@akroncf.org**.

## EVENTS mmmmmm

## 15TH ANNUAL SUGAR PLUM TOUR Sunday, Dec. 4, 1 to 5 p.m.

The Sugar Plum Tour is Akron's premier holiday home tour and the signature fundraiser of our Gay Community Endowment Fund. Since 2001, thousands of tour-goers have experienced the twinkling lights, roaring fires, sparkling trees and extraordinary holiday decorations of more than 80 homes throughout Greater Akron. This year's tour will showcase six exquisitely

decorated homes in West Akron, Fairlawn Heights and Bath. Guests at the patron ticket level will also be invited to a private party at an exclusive seventh residence in Hudson from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Get your tickets at

www.sugarplumtour.org/tickets.



## "FOR WOMEN, FOREVER" ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m. "For Women, Forever" celebrates women as philanthropists and benefits our Women's Endowment Fund. This year's event will feature Savannah James, founder of the I PROMise Makeover, which empowers underprivileged girls from Akron-area high schools by helping



them prepare for prom with dresses, accessories, and most importantly, words of encouragement and self-confidence. During the event, James will share her experience as a businesswoman, philanthropist, wife and mother. Be among the first to get details about the dinner by registering for WEF's e-news at www.akroncf.org/WEFnews.

## COMMUNITY ISSUES SESSION: SUMMIT COUNTY'S OPIATE EPIDEMIC

The opiate crisis in Summit County includes residents as young as 11 and as old as 65, said Jerry Craig, executive director of the County of Summit ADM Board during our Oct. 26 Community Issues Session.

The panel discussion included members of the county's Opiate Task Force: Janis Beckett, director of chemical dependency services at the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Hospital, who shared her own personal struggle with addiction and recovery; and Travis Bornstein, president of Teamsters Local 24, whose son died of a drug overdose, which led to him raising over \$1 million toward the awareness and treatment of addiction. View the session online at www.akroncf.org/OpiateSession.

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS TO:**

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# **HOLIDAY GIVING TIPS**

Need help maximizing your precious gift-giving time this holiday season? Akron Community Foundation offers giving options that are fast and easy.

**GIVE BIGGER WITH STOCK** Avoid capital gains with a gift of appreciated securities. Not all nonprofits can easily accept gifts of stock, but you can support them through Akron Community Foundation. We recommend initiating your transfer by Dec. 19.

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Questions? Contact Margaret Medzie, vice president and chief development officer, at 330-436-5610.



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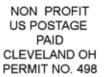


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On Tuesday, Oct. 18, Jim and Vanita Oelschlager received the 49th Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award before a crowd of nearly 500 people at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn. The event was co-chaired by former Polsky Award recipient and Akron Children's Hospital CEO William Considine and former Akron Community Foundation board Chairman Robert Briggs. Current board Chairman Steven Cox presented the award on behalf of Akron Community Foundation. Vanita's speech introduced a heartwarming video acceptance speech from Jim, which evoked both audience laughter and tears.

View his full speech and see photos from this year's Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award dinner at www.akroncf.org/Oelschlagers.

